

Canzano

Nancy Wohlforth, OPEIU

**TOYOTA**

February 25, 2011

Mr. Mark H. Ayers

President

Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO

815 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, 6th Floor

Washington, DC 20006

Dear President Ayers:

As you know, this year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the groundbreaking for Toyota's first North American vehicle assembly plant, located in Georgetown, Kentucky. In light of this milestone, I wanted to take a moment to thank the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO for its contribution to Toyota's success in North America. We are extremely proud of the fact that, to this day, representatives from all manner of industries from around the world come to our Georgetown plant to learn how the time-tested experience of Toyota combines with Kentucky ingenuity at this state-of-the-art facility. And for that, we owe a special debt of gratitude to the skilled men and women of America's Building Trades Unions, who constructed not only the Georgetown facility, but each and every one of our assembly plants in the U.S. and Canada.

Our production system has been consistently recognized as a model for the automobile industry, and we're quite proud of how it helps us to make some of the finest automobiles in the world. And for 25 years now, we have been equally proud to have the skills, expertise and productivity of your members deployed on our behalf.

Large-scale construction projects pose unique challenges for corporations such as ours that maintain the highest standards of safety, efficiency and productivity. To address these challenges, Toyota has consistently employed Project Labor Agreements for our major construction projects, and we could not have been more pleased with the results.

To date, approximately 45 million man-hours have been invested in the construction of nine automobile, truck and component plants in the United States and Canada, with another vehicle assembly plant currently under construction in Mississippi. In each and every instance, those projects were completed "on time and on budget," and with an exemplary safety record. And the Mississippi project is proving to be just as admirable. As we approach this 25 year milestone, I

can say without any equivocation that project labor agreements, combined with the pride, performance and professionalism of America's Building Trades Unions have proven to be a valuable tool to meet Toyota's economical and efficient construction process.

Toyota's global market success is attributable to a never-ending pursuit of quality and continuous improvement. And over the course of 25 years, we have found that America's Building Trades Unions share that same commitment to overall excellence.

Thank you, and your members, for your support over the past quarter-century. We look forward to continuing our relationship and to our continued mutual success.

Sincerely,  
Tetsuo Agata  
President

Thought you might find interesting?

Ron

## **Ooops...ABC Panelist at Michigan PLA Conference Admits Project Labor Agreements Can Be a Good Thing**

10/15/2009

### **Credibility of the Associated Builders and Contractors Called Into Question**

WASHINGTON, DC – A panelist who formally appeared with other representatives from the Associated Builders and Contractors during a conference on Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) held at Michigan State University openly admitted that PLAs can be "a good thing."

Frank Mamat, an Attorney with Foster, Swift, Collins and Smith, PC, located in Michigan, appeared on a panel titled, "The Open Shop's Views on PLAs" at the Understanding PLAs Conference held October 12th at Michigan State University. The conference was jointly sponsored by the School of Labor & Industrial Relations and the School of Planning, Design & Construction. The conference was attended by over 100 construction users, contractors, academic experts, and others. It featured presentations by prominent construction project managers; construction owners; and academic researchers with expertise on the subject of PLAs.

During his presentation, Mr. Mamat incurred the discomfort of his fellow panelists when he related to how the construction of a project on which he was involved, and which utilized a project labor agreement (that resulted in both union and non-union contractors gaining work) caused him to believe that PLAs can "be a good thing." Mr. Mamat even went so far as to publicly praise the local Building and Construction Trades Council involved on this job for its efforts to work with the construction owner and contractors to ensure a level of productivity and skilled manpower that resulted in an on-time, on-budget delivery of this casino.

This is just one more example of how the ABC's opposition to PLAs is rooted more in philosophical spin than it is in the actual realities of the construction marketplace – where increasing numbers of public and private entities are choosing the PLA model represented by increased jobsite efficiencies; a safe, skilled and productive workforce; and opportunities for career training for local residents...over a "race to the bottom" business model predicated upon assembling a low-wage, low-skill, oftentimes vulnerable and exploitable workforce no matter the collateral damage it does to workers, their families and whole communities.

Link: <http://www.bctd.org/Newsroom/Latest-News/Industry-Headlines/Ooops---ABC-Panelist-at-Michigan-PLA-Conference-Ad.aspx>

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